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## Small-Scale Agriculture

# SPRING 1988

### AT ISSUE...A MEMORANDUM:

This first copy has taken a long time to evolve. Just like growing a new crop; it has taken time, hard work, a cultivation of cooperation and some luck! Perhaps the most important, is cooperation. Individuals in the public agriculture sector must become involved if this communication is to be successful and of value to the small-scale agricultural community.

We are asking for the support of Federal and State Departments of Agriculture, other public and private agencies and individuals to provide input on topics, technologies and events of importance to the small-scale farm audience. The flow of information needs to be continuous so that a timely and useful communication can be published and circulated.

### HERE'S HOW TO CONTRIBUTE:

Share A Calendar Event. Provide date, name of activity, location and contact information. Format example, see Calendar of Events this issue.

Or Choose A Topic. Any issue of interest to State, regional, or national small farmers, educators, researchers, or consumers. (Ex., marketing, growing blackberries, profitability of production). Or Technology. Any practical and effective way of getting a task completed in small-scale farming (production method, machinery, harvesting techniques). Format example, see Topics and Technology this issue.

### IMPORTANT! USE THIS FORMAT TO INCLUDE:

1. Classify article as Topic or Technology.
2. In 3-4 sentences, give brief description, indicating relevance to small-scale agriculture.
3. Name contact person: address and telephone number.
4. Your name, address and telephone number; contribution credit.

It is important to follow the format so we can adequately catalog and retrieve the information. We look forward to receiving inputs from you.

### ADDRESS ALL MATERIAL TO:

Office for Small-Scale Agriculture  
Howard W. ("Bud") Kerr, Jr., Director  
USDA/CSRS/SPPS

Suite 342  
Washington, D.C. 20251-2200

Telephone: (202) 447-3640  
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### TOPICS AND TECHNOLOGY

"Small Farms and Farming in the U.S. 1985-1987" (210 citations), NAL BIBL. 88-37, Updates 87-34, Jayne Maclean, March 1988. Bibliographies on the Quick Bibliography Series of the National Agricultural Library, are intended primarily for current awareness, and as the title implies; are not indepth exhaustive bibliographies on any given subject. To request a copy, send the title, series numbers, and self-addressed gummed label to : USDA, National Agricultural Library, Public Services Division, Room 111, Beltsville, Maryland 20705.

"Strawberry Production" - Strawberries will grow in almost all areas and are a favorite fruit of many consumers. The plants are hardy and are easier to grow than most fruit. This publication presents all aspects of production. Contact - Dr. Keith Hawxby, Agricultural Research Dept., Langston University, P. O. Box 730, Langston, OK 73050. Telephone (405) 466-3836.

Rabbit - Americans only eat about one ounce of domestic rabbit meat per person per year; the French, who are generally credited with knowing what tastes good, eat about thirty times as much! For information on sources of Maine Rabbit and other quality Maine products. Write the Bureau of Agricultural Marketing, State House Station # 28, Augusta, ME 04333. Telephone (207) 289-3491.

Dead Bird Disposal - The disposal of poultry or small animal carcasses is often a problem on any farm. Researchers located at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore have developed a simple composting method that is environmentally safe and economical. Contact - Dr. Denis Murphy or Dr. Tom Handwerker, Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Princess Anne, MD 21853. Telephone (301) 651-9111.

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Maine - The Maine Agricultural Promotion Assistance Matching Fund has been established to provide grants for promotional efforts designed to increase the demand for Maine agricultural products in existing markets and to identify new markets. There are rules! Feel free to ask any question. Contact - Cheryl C. Moen, Division of Market Development, Maine Dept. of Agriculture, Food and Resources, Derrington Bldg. (AMHI), State House Station 28, Augusta, ME 04333. Telephone (207) 289-3491.

New Variety of Peach - North Carolina may be offering a new variety of peach that can withstand more cold weather and help growers avoid the spring freezes. Yellow-fleshed "Contender," blooms later than most peaches, sets a high number of flower buds, and they are above average in hardiness. Contact - Dr. Dennis Werner, Horticultural Science, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, N.C. 27650. Telephone (919) 737-3166.

Gardening Tip - If you plant your cool-season vegetables in blocks, you can replant this area with warm-season vegetables after harvesting.

Increase Strawberry Yields - Relatively inexpensive non-woven fabric covers applied in the Fall and removed at bloom in the Spring are increasing yield of strawberries by 35-100% and are maturing berries two weeks earlier. Early berries bring a higher price and attract customers to Pick-Your-Own (PYO) farms and roadside stands early in the season. Contact - Dr. J. E. Pollard, Dept. of Plant Science, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH 03824. Telephone (603) 862-3219

New Jersey Connection - The Farmer's Market Line is a simple, efficient phone/computer system that links farm-product buyers with farmers. Buyers call the line to request specific products; requests are matched to a computer database; buyers receive list of farmers names, addresses, telephone numbers matched to requested product. Contact - Bruce Barbour or John Dumschat, Rutgers Cooperative Extension, 330 Route 206-S, Newton, NJ 07860. Telephone (201) 383-3800.

Networking - Want to know more about "Networking, Small Farm Economic Development" and what is being used in Alabama to promote the Montgomery State Farmers Market? For further information, write Robert F. Jones, Division of Marketing, Dept. of Agriculture and Industries, P. O. Box 3336, Montgomery, AL 36193. Telephone (205) 261-2826.

Oriental Vegetables - "Midwest Alternatives: Production and Marketing of Oriental Vegetables," (10 pages) is written by a small farmer who looks at the facts behind the profits from oriental vegetables. Key questions with answers, seed sources, etc. are discussed. Price \$9.95, plus \$2.00 postage and handling. Contact - Mark Becker, R. R. 1, Box T 74, Greenvew, IL 62642. Telephone (217) 968-7370.

"Drip Irrigation for Small Farmers" - Drip irrigation is becoming the method of choice in areas where irrigation is required. The system allows many plants to be irrigated with a limited water supply. There are both advantages and disadvantages associated with drip irrigation systems. Contact - Dr. Keith Hawxby, Agricultural Research Dept., Langston University, P. O. Box 730, Langston, OK 73050. Telephone (405) 466-3836.

[Mention of commercial enterprises or brand name does not constitute endorsement or imply preference by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.]

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 19-22, 1988 - "The International Herb Growers and Marketers Association's Third Annual Conference and Trade Show," at Baton Rouge, LA Contact - IHGMA, P. O. Box 281, Silver Springs, PA 17575. Telephone (717) 684-9756.

July 17-20, 1988 - "Third National/Herb Growing and Marketing Conference" at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Louisville, KY. Contact - Dr. James Simon, Dept. of Horticulture, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907. Telephone (317) 494-1328.

August 5-6, 1988 - "1988 Great Lakes Farm Symposium," at Domino's Farms, Ann Arbor, MI. Contact - Farm Symposium, Room 11 Agriculture Hall, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824. Telephone (517) 355-0117.

USDA/CSRS/SPPS

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